

The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII

SUMMER, 1949

Number 6

Gustatory Gleanings

At this tropic season tradition warns us to beware of 'summer complaint'. This folklore was derived from generations of distressing trials and errors in the use of new and strange fruits that abound hereabouts from July to October. Babies naturally submit every object, old or new, that comes within reach to the mouth test—and some that are old enough to know better do also. When a force that frequently is laxative meets a too-easily-moved viscus, the result is a foregone conclusion, usually multiple. Only yesterday, it seems in pediatric reckoning, many infants so moved were removed to safer Elysian fields to brouse amid the asphodel and live on milk, (scalded or not as the case might require,) and ambrosial honey.

So it came to pass that many of nature's alluring achievements fell under suspicion. The scarlet globe of the ripe tomato, e.g., in Queen Victoria's day was looked upon with the same abhorrence as the red light of a segregated district. It is in fact akin to the deadly nightshade. But what a feast it can provide when eaten fresh off the vine with a dash of sodium chloride. Even segregation stands discredited in the light of today.

Cherry orchards, if one may believe Anton Chekhov, afford charm; likewise their fruit. Raspberries and their black relations and all their sports and crosses

have plenty of advocates to offset the objurations of cripples condemned to wear artificial dentures. All of them at one time or another must have underlain many a painful abdominal quadrant, either through the workings of allergy or merely from excessive and/or too rapid ingestion.

Or take the CUCURBITACEAE, that large group of fruits including specimens as diverse as the gourd and the watermelon with so many varieties in between,—gherkins, cukes, crooknecks, zucchini, melons from Persia or from Rocky Ford, and, (lest pharmacology be forgotten), colocynth, that bitter purgative pumpkin dear to the hearts (if they had any), of our shotgun-prescribing grandfathers. Has Emily Post never sentenced you to eat an unripe honeydew melon? One octogenarian I know who followed her dictum owes the balance of his life to me because I delivered a melon ball from his spasm-bound esophagus with a douche of good hot water.

Enough of horror on a hot and humid night! Let's get forthwith to our gleanings.

For those who eat too fast, the best I can do is give you Christine Ricker's permutations. 'Use candlelight', she says, 'celery, melba toast and artichokes.' (Who can blame Arty who probably wishes he

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Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
—Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies

OFFICERS OF THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Eoline Dubois

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Help Yourself

It might be salutary for professional men to listen to a layman for a change, especially to one so expensive and highly placed as L. R. Boulware, one of General Electric's vice presidents.

"Phony ideas," he says, "made our last war—costly beyond any need;—These are the false collectivist theories that have made beggars and slaves of people everywhere to the exact degree (that) they have embraced (them).

"In contrast to such bankrupt and discredited schemes," he points out, "sound thinking people are now advocating a realistic program. Enlightened companies are—improving facilities. They are offering more attractive products, lowering prices—and are urging all concerned—to put more thought, interest, skill, care and effort into getting bigger value to the customer."

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How, we ask, could an editorial writer condense into fewer words such a pertinent and well-chosen therapeutic regimen for what ails the practice of medicine at the present writing? It is not enough to condemn regimentation of medicine, crack-pots and compulsion in general and let fine frenzy stop there. A constructive program such as the astute layman has suggested would go much further towards improving the relations of patients and practitioners and restoring the health of both physically and in the economic field. As long ago as the middle of the sixteenth century a poet, Sir Philip Sidney, had the word for a similar tough spot for himself, "Fool!" said my muse to me, "look in thy heart, and write."

PAGING GENERAL ROBERTS

Complementing this number the report on revised by-laws as submitted by Chairman Glickman is published for perusal by members of the Hampden District Medical Society. It is desired by the Committee that everyone may have ample opportunity to study the proposals so that intelligent action may be taken for or against their adoption at the fall meeting.

It is true that we have functioned after a fashion for many years without resort to printed rules. But that became possible solely because Hervey Smith developed into such an efficient secretary-treasurer that in time no one could remember any other procedure than leaving matters concerning our management to him.

But now that Messrs. Dingle, Murray, Pepper, Falk, also Oscar Ewing and Channing the Erstwhile, have prodded the slumbering A. M. A. giant into or-

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.

340 Bridge Street

Springfield

Massachusetts

ganized defensive action, it becomes necessary to implement the attack with efficient local organizations in each of the component district medical societies throughout the United States.

As it is now in Hampden with the annual change in president and possibly secretary as well, and lacking an executive committee to carry over the impetus, continuity of effort is lost and the effectiveness of our organization is minimized. Our grass-roots patently need harrowing, a shot of good, balanced fertilizer and plenty of drops of that gentle dew from Heaven. No longer can we leave it all to George!

If you have suggestions or amendments, submit them in writing.

How Are We Doing?

The campaign goes on apace, and the Whittaker-Baxter alliance is flooding our offices with documents indicative of overwhelming public support for our cause of medical freedom. But as we go out among the people and ask them what they think, we find that the idea of being able to have free medical care as needed, appeals enormously, but that being taxed for it in addition to all other taxes, is something else. But we also find out that the public is not impressed with our affirmation that this is the best of all possible worlds medically speaking. They want to know how they can be protected against the costs of a long illness with nothing coming in. Very few can afford protection of this kind unless it is taken out by the employer, and if the victim happens to be an unemployed member of the family, where is the protection? Then someone asks what about dentistry. Is any provision made for that in our plans for the peoples

health? That is a fair question since the teeth are quite as important to health and happiness as the tonsils or appendix. It is all too evident today that teeth are badly neglected for the simple reason that the average man cannot afford dental care for himself and his family.

I am a little tired of hearing about the British experiment which everyone agrees has been in operation too short a time for a fair or accurate appraisal. I would be much more interested in the working out of the free medical care in Sweden, and Belgium. The Belgian system is especially interesting because it is the result of an agreement between the union leaders and the employers. The employees put 8% of their wages into the social security fund and the employers put in 17%. This pays for all medical care, hospitalization, maternity care, 60% of the wages when disabled, an old age pension and free choice of doctors. The doctors bill is paid by the patients who collect up to 90% of it from the government. This plan has been in operation only since the Germans left and apparently the people are very happy about it. The economic situation there is unusual since there is full employment, high wages and all the good things of life in abundance. Everyone comes under the plan except government workers and domestic help. Prices are high, just as high as here, but people are spending. There is no austerity being practiced in Belgium.

We might as well face the truth that the budgeting of all medical costs is not within the average purse, nor can we achieve this for all our citizens until we have diagnostic centres for the early detection and prevention of disease. Our State Health Commissioner is already urg-

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COMPLIMENTS

Curran-Jones

WEST SPRINGFIELD

Harris Pharmacy

139 Chestnut Street

Springfield

Massachusetts

The Boston Meeting in June on National Health Insurance

The members of the Hampden District who attended this meeting were noted as follows: Drs. Ernst, Walter Williams, Alfred Glickman, Rice, Teitel, Kennedy, Howard Simpson, Visconti, W. Chapin, Sirulnik, Develin, Hagler, Bagg, Daniels, Putnam and Douglas.

Perhaps there were others, but this is not many after the enthusiasm of our annual meeting. Dr. Leahy was as inspiring as ever. Dr. Leahy said: "Most people do not have opinions, they just re-arrange their prejudices." General Lull of the A.M.A. reminded us that there are 70,000 fellows who pay \$12 for the magazine and 70,000 members who do not. We should remember there are no dues to the A.M.A.

We are reminded that the National Health Assembly although rigged against us OK's voluntary health insurance plans.

Dr. Harris of England reminded us that the National Health Act there was established in 1911 under Lloyd George and all of the employed were under it. It was locally run and not for the families of the employed. The over-head at that time was 17%.

Dr. Hayden of the Blue Shield reminded us that there were sixty of their plans in the United States and that the Blue Cross was allowing sixty days in the hospital rather than thirty, and \$7 a day for hospital care. Blue Shield allows \$70 per case for obstetrics and now pays for obstetrics at home.

Waitress: "I have stewed kidneys, boiled tongue, fried liver and pig's feet."

Customer: "Don't tell me your troubles, sister. Give me some chicken pie."

COMPLIMENTS

T. P. Sampson
Springfield

Youth Must Be Served New Springfield Municipal Hospital for Chronic Disease, 600 Beds

That 92 young qualified physicians volunteered their services to care for the underprivileged of Springfield is news.

This medical work was previously done by physicians at a modest fee rate.

With the leadership of our mayor in providing public medical care as exemplified by the new Municipal Hospital and the challenge extended by an all medical board of trustees, these young men have demonstrated that service above self is not yet an empty phrase.

Modern medical training has equipped these men with all that is new in medicine, many of whom have had three to four years of hospital internship before entering private practice.

The value of their combined efforts represent a great saving to the community and offers them a means of using skills which might otherwise be impaired from non-use.

General hospitals must absorb these men rather slowly and with this apprenticeship they should be of greater value to hospitals when they receive their appointments.

These young men are conducting staff functions completely and enthusiastically. They will be well prepared to carry on when appointed to positions on hospital staffs or medical societies.

Wife (to husband who had just completed a day's golfing): Junior tells me he caddied for you today.

Husband: Now, isn't that strange! I thought I'd seen that boy somewhere before!

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Danger!

Dear Hippocrat:

To enable physicians of Hampden County to treat victims of poisoning with parathion, the new insecticide, I am relaying the following note issued by the American Cyanamid Company:

"Operators applying sprays and dusts containing parathion, an organic phosphate insecticide, may show symptoms of toxicity if they do not take protective precautions. First, they become giddy and their pupils shrink. From two to eight hours later, nausea may appear, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and muscular twitching. In severe cases, pulmonary edema may precede coma, convulsions and even death.

"Treatment must be prompt. Atropine should be pushed to therapeutic limits, because parathion shows muscarine-like action. Oxygen in a tent is helpful, but is even better under slight positive pressure, (6 mm. of water). Since onset of severe poisoning may be insidious, the patient should be hospitalized without delay if symptoms appear."

Although the number of persons using this new material hereabouts is not large, the insecticide may well become an important factor before long.

Very truly yours,
James N. Putnam
County Agricultural Agent

You can tell an Englishman from an American by the manner in which he enters a restaurant. The Englishman walks in as tho he owns the place. The American walks in as tho he doesn't give a damn who owns it.

"MORE POWER" TO OUR NURSES

"For the past few years, nursing educators on a national level have been stressing the importance of the social and health aspects of nursing in relation to the community. Nurses themselves, seem to be more aware of this and are interested in more advanced education.

In view of this, arrangements are now being made with the Boston University School of Nursing, to have an Extension Service Course in the "Fundamental Principles of Public Health Nursing." The course will start in the fall. The response has been good and anyone else interested may contact—

Virginia R. Marr, R. N., Nurse Chairman,

District No. 1, M.O.P.H.N.

Room 612, 145 State St., Springfield.

GUSTATORY GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 1)

had choked before he elected to go to Stanford University where she doles out dies.s?) The lady admits that 'changing food habits at the college level is difficult.*'

But Dr. Velma Phillips of Washington State College* has somewhat more on the bolus in her advice to home makers. By shopping first, the intelligent housewife not only may snap up the best buys in the marts, but arrange her menus accordingly. In this manner tabus may be respected, moneys conserved and the element of surprise help to maintain the interest in non-expendable sources of our energy and general well-being both in the provider and in the ultimate consumer.

As for me, I'm drooling now. No, I'm through!

S. Q. Lapius

*Science News Letter, July 9, 1949, p. 21

Surgical Supply Company

22 Railroad Street

Holyoke



By-Laws

The reader will notice that a copy of the proposed by-laws is enclosed as a separate sheet. This will facilitate study, if any, and reference at the annual meeting; probably in October.

Also as part of this magazine will be found two proposed changes. Inasmuch as several useful members were not consulted in framing the by-laws there will undoubtedly be other changes presented at the meeting. Only by a strong interested organization can we expect to preserve our ability to serve the people of our community. To these whom you have chosen to place in responsible places even the most minor assignments have continued deep responsibility.

W. A. R. Chapin

By-Laws Change Proposals

Dr. W. A. R. Chapin, after consultation, presents the following, replacing Chapter 5.

Section 1. The Society shall publish a bulletin four times a year.

The title of this publication shall be the Hampden Hippocrat.

Four fellows shall be elected annually to the Board of Editors by the Executive Committee. One of them will be designated as editor-in-chief and one shall be designated as secretary to the committee, each assuming the responsibilities attending their designations.

Section 2. The Society shall defray any costs and shall receive all income from this magazine. The treasurer of the Society shall send proper bills for advertising, collect such monies therefrom and pay all proper bills incurred by the publication of this magazine as outlined as his

duties in Section 3 of Chapter 4 of these by-laws

The entire Hippocrat Board instructed Dr. Whitney to propose an amendment to give board representation for various hospitals and communities, and to be appointed by the editorial board.

Section 3. "There shall be not over twelve associate editors selected by the editorial board for their willingness to serve and their geographical and hospital distribution, such editors to cooperate with the editor-in-chief and his board and make literary, factual, political or economic contributions to the magazine as comes to their attention or as solicited by the board."

HOW ARE WE DOING?

(Continued from Page 3)

ing this as a part of the state program in the field of preventive medicine. But this is only another form of tax supported medical care, and if we are to retain the management of our own profession, it is up to us to run our own diagnostic clinics as part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan without state aid or direction.

We know the cost of illness is too high, but where have we offered any plan to effect a reduction? We continue to use expensive drugs because they are new when cheaper ones would give equally good results. We demand elaborate laboratory studies when diagnosis and treatment do not warrant. We have taken too little interest in the economical efficient management of our hospitals. We have too often been unwilling to reconcile our fees with the payments recommended by Blue Shield. The cost of medical care is the responsibility of the medical profession. Whittaker and Baxter cannot help us here.

James E. Templeton & Co., Inc.

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26 Elm Street

Westfield, Mass.

COMPLIMENTS

Ernest A. Byron

SPRINGFIELD

Diabetes

August 19, 1949

Dr. Edward P. Bagg, Editor-in-Chief

Hampden Hippocrat

Hampden District of the Massachusetts
Medical Society 121 Chestnut Street,
Springfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Edward:

This is to call to your attention that the Diabetes Detection Drive of the American Diabetes Association will begin with Diabetes Week October 10-16, 1949.

As you know, I am sure, this program has been endorsed several times by the Massachusetts Medical Society and twice by the American Medical Association. It is our plan here in Massachusetts to carry on an extensive year-around program. The Associated Industries in Massachusetts offered us their wholehearted support and endorsement, and we believe that the drive in Massachusetts will provide leadership and stimulus for the whole country.

Quite frankly, one of our major problems is notifying the physicians of the program and securing their full cooperation. Therefore, I wondered if it would be possible for you to carry a special article or notice in an issue of the **Hampden Hippocrat** before Diabetes Week.

Any assistance which you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

My best personal wishes:

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD F. ROOT, M.D.,

Chairman, Committee on Diabetes
Detection

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Springfield . . . Massachusetts

Professional Bldg. Pharmacy

Inc.

18 Maple Street

Springfield

THE BACTERIOLOGICAL BALL

A gay bacillus, to gain her glory,
Once gave a ball in a laboratory.
The fete took place on a cover glass,
Where vulgar germs could not harass.
None but the cultured were invited,
For microbe chicks are well united.
They closely shut the ball-room doors
To all the germs containing spores.
The staphylococci first arrived,
To stand in groups, they all contrived.
The diplococci came in view,
A trifle late and two by two.
The streptococci took great pains
To seat themselves in graceful chains.
The pneumococci, stern and haughty,
Declared the geonococci naughty,
And said they would not come at all
If the gonos were at the ball.
Each germ enjoyed himself that night
Without fear of a phagocyte.
'Twas getting late and some were
loaded,
When bang, the formaldehyde exploded!
And drenched the happy dancing mass
That swarmed the fated cover glass.
Not one survived, but perished all,
At that bacteriological ball.
From a Baltimore, Md. Doctor's
Note Book.

"So Liz is sore at her husband? I thought he was perfect. He always turned over his pay check to her on the first of the month.

"Yeah. But she found out he gets paid on the fifteenth, too."

Absorbine Jr.

BACKGROUND

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THE DOCTORS CARE, TOO!

It has been said that solicitors of the Community Chest have had considerable difficulty contacting members of certain professions. Last year the Community Chest did not raise its quota and the contributions from the physicians in the Community were much less than could be expected. This was also true of dentistry and of law. During the past Spring a group from the two latter professions have undertaken what the physicians are doing here and now.

About forty physicians have agreed to take five or six names of fellow practitioners and solicit these for the Community Chest work, knowing as they do that the Community Chest is one more bulwark against the welfare state. It is hoped that when these men contact members of the Society they are greeted with generosity and understanding, and a

check commensurate with to the resources of the solicited fellow. Need we say more?

Roswell G. Mace, M.D.

Frederic Hagler, M.D.

Co-Chairmen of Medical Group

Hubby: Honey, do you know who I'd marry if I had to do it all over again?

Wife: No who?

Hubby: You.

Wife: Oh no you wouldn't!

"Do you think a person's crazy if he talks to himself?"

"No. But he is if he listens."

First salesman: "Gee I had a marvelous day; made lots of friends for the company.

2d same: "Me too. I didn't sell anything either.